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Grandes Escritores de América, by Rufino Blanco-Fombona. Renacimiento, Madrid, 1917. 343 pages.

Don Rufino Blanco-Fombona is one of the best known writers of Spanish-America. He is a Venezuelan who has lived the best years of his literary life in Madrid and is one of the ablest and most vigorous representatives of the new intellectual life of Spanish-America. He has distinguished himself as a novelist (*El Hombre de Oro*, *El Hombre de Hierro*), as a poet (*Pecueña Opera Lírica*, *Cantos de la Prisión y del Destierro*), as a literary historian (*La Evolución social y política de Hispano-América*), and as a literary critic (*Letras y Letrados de Hispano-América*). He belongs to that group of young Spanish-American intellectuals who work night and day for the betterment of the youth of Spanish-America and for a correct interpretation of the history and culture of new Spain. In resourcefulness, in vigor of style and in his intense patriotism he resembles Manuel Ugarte and Francisco García Calderón.

His latest literary production, *Grandes Escritores de América*, is one of the most interesting and important works that has appeared within recent years on the literary history of Spanish-America. The volume is dedicated to XIXth century writers only, which leads one to suppose that Mr. Fombona has published the first of two or more volumes in preparation.

Grandes Escritores de América gives a succinct and complete *resumen*, up-to-date, and including the latest conclusions in literary research concerning the five writers whom Mr. Fombona considers the most important of the XIXth century in Spanish-America: Andrés Bello, the Venezuelan genius who lived practically all his life in Chile and is known the world over as one of the most distinguished educators, and whose fame rests on his investigations in Spanish literature and philology, his best known work being his *Gramática de la Lengua Castellana*, revised later by Cuervo; Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, the astute and semi-learned Argentine educator who wrote *Facundo*, one of the most powerful and realistic novels that Spanish-America has produced; Eugenio María de Hostos, the Porto Rican critic and philosopher, whose Shakespearean studies seem to have furnished many of the ideas of the English critic, Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, in his work, *Thoughts and Afterthoughts*; the Ecuadorian writer, Juan Montalvo, author of *Los Siete Tratados* and *Los Capítulos que se le olvidaron a Cervantes*; and Manuel González Prada, the fearless Peruvian philosophic writer who put an end to the apathy in the national life of Peru after the country had been ignominiously defeated by Chile, and whose best work, *Páginas Libres*, would seem to show that little Peru has also its Renan.

Grandes Escritores de América is a volume which forms a most valuable addition to the few good books on the literary history of Spanish-America. It is a book that is absolutely indispensable in a library of Spanish-American literature.

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